

Message Text

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ACTION IO-13

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TAGS: UNIDO, EIND, OCON, ABUD

SUBJ: RESUMED TENTH SESSION OF THE INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT BOARD-
GROUP B MEETING AUGUST 31

REF: A. VIENNA 7308 B. VIENNA 6769 C. VIENNA 7106
D. STATE 214951

1. FOLLOWING IS FURTHER SUMMARY OF DISCUSSION AT AUGUST 31
GROUP B MEETING.

2. REVISED PROGRAM/BUDGET FOR 1976-77: MOST SPEAKERS
SAID THEY WERE AT A LOSS TO FIND A BASIS FOR REASONABLE
AND RELIABLE JUDGMENTS CONCERNING THE VALIDITY OF UNIDO'S
REVISED BUDGET REQUESTES. ONE CRITICISM WAS THAT MANY
OF THE PROPOSED ACTIVITIES LISTED UNDER MEDIUM-TERM
OBJECTIVES E.G. THE 12 SECTORAL STUDIES LISTED ON PAGE F20
UNDER MEDIUM X-TERM OBJECTIVE 1, OBVIOUSLY COULD NOT BE
COMPLETED WITHIN 1976-77 BIENNIUM AND THAT THERE WAS NO
CLEAR-CUT RELATIONSHIP ESTABLISHED IN THE PROGRAM/BUDGET
PRESENTATION BETWEEN RESOURCES REQUESTED FOR THE
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BIENNIUM AND THE AMOUNT OF WORK OR PROPORTION OF THE

PROJECTS LISTED WHICH THE SECRETARIAT ACTUALLY EXPECTED TO ACCOMPLISH BY THE END OF 1977. THERE WAS SOME FEELING WITH RESPECT TO THIS PARTICULAR ACTIVITY THAT IN ANY CASE THE SECRETARIAT WOULD BE UNABLE EFFECTIVELY TO LAUNCH THE FULL LIST OF STUDIES WITHIN THE PRESENT BIENNIUM. ALSO, THAT INTRODUCING SUCH A HEAVY SCHEDULE OF SECTORAL STUDIES AT THIS TIME IN ORDER TO UNDERPIN CONSULTATIONS ON THE SECTORS IN QUESTION PROBABLY VIOLATED THE INTENTION OF THE IDB-X WHEN IT AUTHORIZED THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR TO ORGANIZE CONSULTATIONS ON AN EXPERIMENTAL BASIS (WHICH SOME INTERPRETED AS MEANING RESTRICTED) ORDER TO ALLOW THE BOARD TO GIVE FURTHER GUIDANCE ON THE BASIS OF THE EXPERIENCE THUS GAINED. IN THIS CONNECTION, IT WAS NOTED THAT PARA. 1.2 ON F20 DID NOT LIST AN EXPERT GROUP MEETING FOR IRON AND STEEL ALTHOUGH THE EX DIRECTOR'S NOTE ON CONSULTATIONS, ID/B/168/ADD. 1, TELLS US THAT SUCH A MEETING IS PLANNED. THERE APPEARED TO BE NO SUPPORT FOR THE EX DIRECTOR'S REQUEST TO ESTABLISH THREE ASG POSTS. THERE WAS CONSIDERABLE DISCUSSION OF THE PROPOSAL TO ESTABLISH 20 NEW POSTS IN ICIS FOR OUTPOSTING TO THE REGIONAL ECONOMIC COMMISSIONS (PAGE 14, PARA 30). MOST SPEAKERS WERE UNCERTAIN HOW TO TREAT THIS ITEM. IT WAS RECOGNIZED THAT, IF ONE TOOK AT FACE VALUE THE STATEMENT IN L194/ADD.1 THAT REGIONAL ADVISERS WOULD CONTINUE TO BE FINANCED FROM THE REGULAR PROGRAM OF TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE FOR TECHNICAL COOPERATION ACTIVITIES TO THE SAME NUMBER AS CURRENTLY PROVIDED FOR (12), THEN THE EX DIRECTOR'S PROPOSAL HAD NOTHING TO DO WITH THE ISSUE UNDER DISCUSSION IN THE IGC OF HOW TO FINANCE SUCH PERSONNEL IN THE SPECIALIZED AGENCY. WHAT WAS INVOLVED, RATHER, WAS THE QUESTION OF OUTPOSTING NEW ICIS PERSONNEL AND THE JUDGEMENT WOULD HAVE TO BE MADE WHETHER THE CENTER'S WORK PROGRAM JUSTIFIED SUCH ARRANGEMENT. IN ANY CASE, IN ORDER TO CLEAR UP UNCERTAINTIES AS TO PRECISELY HOW MANY REGIONAL ADVISERS WOULD CONTINUE TO BE FINANCED FROM THE REGULAR PROGRAM, FRANCE AND THE FRG WERE ASKED TO CHECK THIS OUT WITH THE SECRETARIAT. THERE WERE DIFFERING VIEWS ON HOW TO REACT TO THE PROPOSED HEAVY CUTS

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IN THE INDUSTRIAL OPERATIONS DIVISION. SOME SPEAKERS FELT THAT IT WOULD BE DIFFICULT TO OPPOSE THE CUTS AND AT THE SAME TIME CONTINUE TO CALL FOR REDUCTIONS IN UNIDO'S OVERHEAD COSTS. OTHERS WERE CONCERNED THAT UNIDO WAS MOVING IN THE DIRECTION OF BECOMING LARGELY AN UNCTAD-TYPE ORGANIZATION WHICH WOULD DEVOTE THE BULK OF ITS RESOURCES AND ATTENTION TO "POLICY" ISSUES RELATED TO ACHIEVING THE LIMA 25 PERCENT TARGET. WE

MADE POINTS CONTAINED IN PARAS 2, 3, 4, AND 5.
OF REF D. REACTION WAS GENERALLY SYMPATHETIC
ALTHOUGH NO OTHER GROUP B REPS HAS INSTRUCTIONS.

3. UNIDO-III: SEVERAL SPEAKERS REJECTED THE
"TWO GENERAL CONFERENCES CONCEPT" EMBODIED
IN DOCUMENT ID/B/172. THERE WAS GENERAL AGREEMENT
THAT GROUP B SHOULD GO ALONG WITH A RECOMMENDATION
TO THE GA TO PLAN FOR A GENERAL CONFERENCE IN 1979
BUT TO TIE THE RECOMMENDATIONS TO THE POSSIBILITY
THAT UNIDO MIGHT BY THEN BE A SPECIALIZED AGENCY
WITH ITS OWN GENERAL CONFERENCE SCHEDULE.
(REF C). IN THAT CASE THE SITUATION WOULD HAVE
TO BE REVIEWED. INFORMATION ON BASIS FRG CONVERSATION
WITH SECRETARIAT MEMBER IT APPEARED THE \$20,000
ADDITIONAL FUNDS REQUESTED WAS SOLELY TO FINANCE
TRAVEL TO REGIONAL COMMISSIONS OTHER AGENCIES ETC. IN ORDER
TO DISCUSS NATURE OF PREPARATORY STUDIES TO BE
UNDERTAKEN. WE MADE POINT CONTAINED PARA 9 REFTEL D
BUT DREW NO PARTICULAR REACTION. OUR
SECRETARIAT CONTACT IN UNIDO BUDGET SECTION SUGGEST
THAT OUR LINE IN THE BOARD BE SIMPLY THAT THIS SMALL
AMOUNT BE ABSORBED BY THE RESOURCES TO BE MADE
AVAILABLE TO UNIDO BY THE 31ST GA.

4. GENERAL PROGRAM/BUDGET PRESENTATION: WE
INFORMED GROUP OF THE POSSIBLE PROPOSAL IN PARA 6
REF D. THERE WAS NO REACTION TO IT.

5. AGENDA FOR PC-IX: WE INFORMED GROUP
OF POSSIBLE SUGGESTIONS FOR AGENDA OF PC-IX
(PARA 10, REF D). GROUP SIMPLY TOOK NOTE OF THESE.
DEPT WILL NOTE THAT ANY PROPOSALS RELATING TO
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AGENDA OF PC-IX WILL HAVE TO BE MADE IN THE BOARD
WHICH ESTABLISHES THE PC'S PROVISIONAL
AGENDA. (SEE ID/B/171, PARA 97).

6. SECRETARIAT QUESTIONNAIRE ON FOLLOW-UP
OF LIMA: AFTER A BRIEF DISCUSSION OF SECRETARIAT'S
QUESTIONNAIRE ON THE FOLLOW-UP OF LIMA (REF C)
IT WAS AGREED THAT GROUP B MEMBERS WOULD
EXCHANGE VIEWS ON HOW TO HANDLE THIS AT A SUBSEQUENT
MEETING. IT WAS NOTED THAT A DIFFERENT QUESTIONNAIRE
HAD BEEN SENT TO LDCS. (MISSION WILL OBTAIN COPIES
FOR DEPT.).STIBRAVY

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